

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1 and 7 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An axle housing assembly comprising:
an axle housing having a differential housing and a cover attached to the differential housing, said differential housing having an integrally formed housing body and being provided with a pair of axle tubes fixed to said differential housing within said housing body;

support means including a pair of axle brackets each having a ring portion wherein said pair of axle brackets are fitted on said pair of axle tubes adapted for mounting said axle housing to a base frame wherein a thick portion projecting toward said housing body is formed on one of said pair of axle brackets such that the distal end of said thick portion is in contact with one of the left side surface and the right side surface of a convex repulsive force receiving member; and

said convex repulsive force receiving member provided on the body of said differential housing wherein a through hole is formed in a parallel with the axle tubes for receiving a fastener for coupling the body of said differential housing integrally with said support means, wherein

said differential housing is substantially centered between said pair of axle brackets.

2. (Original) An axle housing assembly according to claim 1, wherein said differential housing has a cover detachably mounted on said body.

3. (Canceled).

4. (Previously presented) An axle housing assembly according to claim 2, wherein said convex repulsive force receiving member is secured to one of said pair of axle brackets by a repulsive force receiving bolt so that said body is supported by the base frame through the brackets.

5. (Previously presented) An axle housing assembly according to claim 4, wherein said convex repulsive force receiving member further includes a portion integrally formed on said body,

said repulsive force receiving bolt being caused to pass through said thick portion and said portion of said convex repulsive force receiving member.

6. (Original) An axle housing assembly according to claim 4, further comprising a nut for threadedly engaging with an end portion of said repulsive force receiving bolt,

said nut being located in an upper portion of said differential housing.

7. (Currently Amended) An axle housing assembly comprising:
an axle housing having a differential housing and a cover attached to the differential housing, said differential housing having an integrally formed housing body and being provided with a pair of axle tubes fixed to said differential housing within said housing body;

support brackets each having a ring portion wherein said support brackets are fitted on said pair of axle tubes for supporting said axle housing on a base frame; and

a convex repulsive force receiving member extending generally vertically from the body of said differential housing wherein a through hole is formed in parallel with the axle tubes for receiving a fastener for coupling the body of said differential housing integrally with at least one of said support brackets wherein a thick portion projecting toward said housing body is formed on one of said pair of axle brackets such that the distal end of said thick portion is in contact with the left side surface of the convex repulsive force receiving member, said fastener extending through said through hole and securing together the convex repulsive force receiving member and said one support bracket, wherein

said differential housing is substantially centered between said support brackets.

8. (Previously presented) An axle housing assembly according to claim 7, wherein the fastener is a bolt.

9. (Previously presented) An axle housing assembly according to claim 8, further comprising a nut for threadedly engaging with an end portion of said bolt; said nut being located in an upper portion of said differential housing.

10. (Previously presented) An axle housing assembly according to claim 7, wherein the adjacent surfaces of the said one support bracket and said convex force receiving member are in abutment when fastened.

11. (Previously presented) An axle housing assembly according to claim 8, wherein said one support bracket has a recess surrounding the through hole for recessing the head of said bolt.

12. (Previously presented) An axle housing assembly according to claim 7, wherein said one support bracket includes a generally vertical plate and said convex force receiving member extends vertically from the body of said housing.

13. (Previously presented) The axle housing assembly of claim 7, wherein the convex force receiving member is formed integrally with the housing.